

NARRATIVE OF THE U. S. NAVAL STATION, TONGUE POINT, ASTORIA, OREGON
1 OCTOBER 1946 TO 31 MARCH 1947

On 1 October 1946, the United States Naval Station, Tongue Point, Oregon was under the command of Captain Ligon B. Ard, USNR. On 22 October 1946, Captain J. W. Long, USN, was ordered to Portland and to relieve Captain J. L. Rodgers as Commanding Officer of the Berthing Area Facility. Captain Ard was detached from this station on 12 March 1947 and ordered to the United States Naval Hospital, Bremerton, Washington for hospitalization. He was relieved by Captain J. W. Long, USN, the Commandant's representative and Commander of the Berthing Area in Portland, who took over the command of the United States Naval Station, Tongue Point, Astoria, Oregon, as a temporary additional duty. The new Commanding Officer of the United States Naval Station, Tongue Point, Astoria, Oregon, Captain Colin Campbell, USN, assumed command at 1300, 31 March 1947.

An important event in the history of the Tongue Point Naval Station from October 1, 1946 to 31 March 1947, has been the mooring of the inactivated ships brought down the Columbia River from the United States Naval Station, Portland, Oregon. Pier number 6 at the Mott Basin Berthing Area, Tongue Point was completed and the first ships were secured alongside on 19 October 1946. Each month thereafter new ships have been coming in on schedule. With the completion of piers 7 and 8, the number of ships increased to fifty-five. In the meantime, work was started on piers 3, 4, and 5 and these piers are now completed and ships have been moored

alongside. At the present time 186 ships are berthed at the Naval Station, Tongue Point, Astoria, Oregon. These ships consist of 62 LST's, 60 LCT's, which are aboard the LST's, 21 AN's, 8 ATA's, 5 ATF's, 9 ARL's, 2 PC's, 11 YTB's, 3 YR's, 2 YRD's, 1 APB, and 1 APL. 1/ There are still seventy-eight ships at the Port of Astoria Naval Station consisting of 12 LCI's, 24 LCS's, 1 YTB, 24 LSM's, and 18 PC's. These are expected to be transferred before the first of July 1947, which is the anticipated completion date of the Mott Basin Berthing Area. There are also at present 6 AM's, and 1 LCT moored at Cathlamet Bay, several miles up the Columbia River. All the ships now at Portland are expected to be transferred to Astoria within the next two months.

The work of inactivating these ships has not been an easy task. On Thursday 7 November 1946, Berth 3 on Pier 6 was damaged when the LST's 735, 835 and 1142 were being moored. 2/ Because of the damage incurred, a new procedure was developed for the berthing space at Pier 7. 3/ It was later revealed that more than 3 LCI's in a nest on the north side of Pier 7 seriously hampered the cement loading operations which was accomplished at the wharf between Piers 7 and 8. On 1 December 1946, the Naval Station at Port Docks returned to the Port of Astoria the transit shed on Pier 1 and all the transit sheds on Pier 3.

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- 1/ Sheet #1 and #2 of Operations Report USNS, Tongue Point, Oregon.
2/ Duty Officer's Log, 7 Nov 46, U. S. N. S., Tongue Point, Oregon.
3/ Cdr, ColRivGrp Ltr of 20 Nov 46, Serial 1993 dtd 20 Nov 46
NS19/A1(21:RCJ:fic)

The latter included BOQ No. 2, Barracks 2, the mess hall and the heating plant. 4/

The personnel has varied somewhat during these last six months. On 1 October 1946, the total personnel attached to the Columbia River Group, both at Portland and Astoria, was 2681 enlisted men and 208 officers. The United States Naval Station at the same time had 233 enlisted men and 36 officers on board for duty. These figures represent a total of all men stationed at Tongue Point, Port Docks, Portland, and aboard ships attached to The Columbia River Group. On 1 November 1946 there were 2674 enlisted men and 222 officers on duty in the Columbia River Group, while the total Naval Station personnel was 201 enlisted men and 34 officers. On 1 January 1947, there were 2637 enlisted men and 253 officers attached to the Columbia River Group and 189 enlisted men and 30 officers attached to the Naval Station. In February and 1 March 1947 there were 1998 enlisted men and 228 officers on duty in the Columbia River Group. In the months of February and March in the Naval Station there were 181 for February and 183 for the month of March. The number of officers for the station at the same time was 19. As of 31 March 1947 there were 1948 enlisted men and 228 officers on duty in the Columbia River Group. At the same time there were 165 enlisted men and 23 officers attached to the Naval Station. 5/

The Navy Day events started on Saturday, 26 October 1946,

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- 4/ Memo to CO, NS19/A1(21:RCJ:fk) Serial PW-250.
5/ Monthly Report of Personnel to Coml3 Nav Dist.

with a Chamber of Commerce luncheon at Amato's. Captain H. C. Fischer, CEC, USN, District Public Works Officer, was the guest speaker. Navy Day Divine Services were held on Sunday, 27 October 1946, and the station was open for visitors all day.

The annual Christmas party for the children of the enlisted men and officers took place on Saturday, 21 December 1946. Presents were distributed to over 100 children. A pageant portraying the birth of Christ was presented by the children of the Tongue Point Community Church.

In the sports line, there have been four Navy smokers, the first being held on 9 December 1946, at the Astoria, USO. There has been one every month since that date. An inter-city basketball league was set up for the winter months and for the entertainment of the men. A monthly formal dance has been held. A bowling league has been an additional morale factor two nights a week.

With the burning of stumps, grading of roads, grubbing and cold-decking of logs, the future housing project for married officers and enlisted men's quarters is well underway. No definite completion date has been set as yet, but already concrete foundations have been laid for several houses. This project employs approximately 376 men.

The Bureau of Naval Personnel has approved and placed before the Secretary of the Navy, Bureau of Docks, and Chief of Naval Operations a request for alterations to and redesignation of Building No. 47, WAVES Barracks, as enlisted men's recreation

building. 6/ Upon approval of SecNav and the Chief of Naval Operations, the Bureau of Naval Personnel will make available \$7500. to cover the cost of such a project. If approved, the recreation hall, which is located just inside the main gate, will be used for different types of recreation. Included in the facilities will be a snack bar, lockers for stowing civilian clothes, and dressing rooms for changing clothes.

The Bureau of Naval Personnel has approved and placed before the Secretary of the Navy, and the Bureau of Yards and Docks, a request for an Athletic Field at the Naval Station, Tongue Point, Astoria, Oregon. The estimated cost for the construction of this field is \$81,235.00. This field will include a grandstand with dressing room facilities. This field will be located at the north-east end of the Naval Station. 7/

A request for construction of a chapel on the Naval Station has been forwarded by the Bureau of Naval Personnel to the Secretary of the Navy, recommending approval. Money is to be obtained from such 1947 Public Works funds as may be available from cancelled or disapproved projects. The estimated cost of construction is \$56,000.00. 8/

On 1 March 1947 the U. S. Naval Hospital, Astoria, Oregon, was disestablished and this station assumed control of the hospital housing. This housing consists of 40 FPHA units and 5 public quarters for officers. The fire department at the hospital is being

6/ Bu Y&D End-3 of 7 March 1947 NS17/N4-8 C-10-4A/emh on CO NavSta, Tongue Point, Ore ltr of 20 Dec 47 Ser. # 2183.
7/ Com13 ND ltr of 13 Feb 1947, Ser # 474153, NS 50 Y-D2,
8/ Bu Y&D ltr of 26 March 1947 NS17/N4-7 C-10-4A/emh.

maintained, but is reduced in force and under the jurisdiction
of the Tongue Point Naval Station Fire Chief.